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in the inner court of the Hôtel de Ville ; the beautiful promenade of the city bears his name ; episodes in his life have been made the theme for papers read before the Academy of Aix, and his notorious lawsuit with his wife has been more than once the subject of an opening address before the association of local advocates.

Two men profited by these conditions, devoting long years to the study of Mirabeau's life in Provence. One of these men was Alexandre Mouttet, *juge de paix* at Aix, who died last summer at the age of eighty-seven ; the other, Professor Guibal. Something of what Professor Guibal owed to Judge Mouttet may be learned from his foot-notes, but not all. Much that the latter knew about Mirabeau he had never committed to paper and this information could be had for the asking. He left behind him a volume in manuscript that will probably never be printed. The results of his work will be preserved, for the most part, only in the writings of other investigators.

Writing under these favorable conditions, Professor Guibal has produced a work that is destined to live and to be read as long as men are interested in the life of Mirabeau. Much of the material that was employed in the work is the private property of citizens of Provence. Some of it has already gone astray and more will probably suffer the same fate in the next generation unless purchased by the state. In the future, it is not improbable that historians may be forced to cite portions of this book as primary authority in place of the sources that have disappeared. This havoc that time plays with the records of the past has given more than one historian a permanent place among the great men in the world's hall of fame.

FRED MORROW FLING.

Le Clergé de France pendant la Révolution (1789-1799). Par EDMOND BIRÉ. (Lyons : Emmanuel Vitte. 1901. Pp. 369.)

THIS book is a distinct disappointment. The title naturally leads one to expect an honest attempt to narrate the history of the clergy in France during the Revolution. It is, however, nothing but a collection of book-reviews of local histories and biographies dealing with the church and the clergy of the Revolution. Perhaps the book might better have been entitled "Notes on the Martyrology of the French Revolution." Though possessing but slight intrinsic value, this volume has its importance in the historiography of the Revolution, for it calls attention to a group of writers who are rendering a great service to the study of this important period, and who have received little attention in France and none in America. The Third Republic has witnessed a great revival of interest in the study of the Revolution, and above all of its developments in the provinces. The republican has studied the events of interest in his own town or department during the Revolution and especially during the Reign of Terror. Some of the authors have written in a spirit of fairness and impartiality, trusting that the facts themselves will prove the best arguments in favor of the republican cause, while others have spoken

as zealous advocates of the Revolutionary and republican ideals of liberty, equality and fraternity, and of the acts done in their name.

In republican France, however, there is, as a good republican remarked concerning the Associations Bill, liberty, equality and fraternity for everybody except the priests and for everything except the church. The persecuted Catholic church of France has never wanted for advocates as able and as zealous as the republican writers, and, what is more, the church historians have had centuries of experience in writing the story of periods of persecution and the lives of the martyrs. The latest period to become a field for these martyrological writers is the French Revolution, and while the republican historian has studied approvingly the deputies on mission and the members of the Great Committee of Public Safety, the Catholic historian has praised the unswerving loyalty of the non-juring priests and of the devout women who dared attend mass in some sacred place at the height of the Terror, at the risk of expiating their daring in the prisons or at the guillotine. Especially during the past decade have the ecclesiastical historians been busy turning out volume after volume dealing with the church and its persecution during the Revolution. Some of them like Abbé Delarc's *Église de Paris pendant la Révolution Française* are the valuable result of prolonged and scholarly researches, while others like Abbé Odon's *Carmélites de Compiègne Mortes pour la Foi sur l'Échafaud Révolutionnaire* are but simple narratives of martyrdom.

A dozen or more of these books have passed through the hands of M. Biré, and he has read them, making notes here and there and excerpts somewhere else with the apparent idea of collecting for his own edification the details that would most glorify the church and her martyrs and discredit the persecuting revolutionist. The publication of this notebook on the crimes of the First Republic seems to have been suggested to M. Biré by the latest crime of the Third Republic, the passage of the Associations Bill. The only scientific history in the book is in the bits copied from such excellent works as those of Abbé Delarc and of M. Lallié who has written so ably upon the Revolution at Nantes. Of declamation concerning the glories of the church and the crimes of republicanism there is at least a sufficiency. The single merit of M. Biré's brochure is that it directs attention to the recent valuable contributions to the local history of the Revolution made by Catholic scholars. The author curiously enough has not mentioned one of the most scholarly and complete works of this sort—the *Histoire Religieuse du Département de l'Hérault pendant la Révolution*, by Canon Saurel of the Cathedral of Montpellier (4 vols., 1894-1896). Of recent writers favorable to the Revolution, M. Biré mentions no one except M. Aulard, and in his seventy pages based upon Abbé Delarc's *Église de Paris* there is not a single reference to *Le Mouvement Religieux à Paris pendant la Révolution (1789-1801)* of which the first volume had preceded Abbé Delarc's and had been published in the *Collection de Documents Relatifs à l'Histoire de Paris pendant la Révolution Française, Publiée sous le*

Patronage du Conseil Municipal. This book deserved at least a mention because of the eminence of its author, the late Dr. Robinet, the biographer of Danton. One last word—M. Biré's judgment on his own book, may be added. He says rightly on page 72: "Il n'est pas de bon livre d'histoire sans *Index*." He has left this book without an index.

GEORGE M. DUTCHER.

Histoire Politique de la Révolution Française: Origines et Développement de la Démocratie et de la République Par A. AULARD. (Paris: Armand Colin. 1901. Pp. xii, 805.)

M. AULARD's book has a special claim upon attention because of his unique position among students of the great Revolution. For over fifteen years he has held a professorship with this as its theme in the faculty of letters of the University of Paris. He is the directing spirit of a society devoted to the study of the Revolution and the editor of the society's review. Since 1886 he has also edited several collections of documents, over twenty-five volumes in all.

His work is distinguished from that of most of his predecessors by a more scientific criticism of the sources. For example, he looks with suspicion upon the evidence contained in memoirs, because most of these were written during the Napoleonic period or the Restoration, when the memories of the writers must have become confused, and when they were, in part at least, preoccupied by the task of rehabilitating themselves in the eyes of posterity. The substance of his narrative is based upon strictly contemporaneous documents—debates, speeches, newspaper articles, proceedings, laws, many of which were acts rather than descriptions of acts. The inexhaustible patience with which he has investigated all this material has enabled him to trace the evolution of opinion and the aims which gave the impulse to the Revolutionary movements. The testimony of memoirs adds detail and color to facts, the main features of which have been otherwise determined.

The scope of the work is clearly stated in the title, limited as this is by the subtitle. The subtitle is a reminiscence of the articles that appeared in the *Révolution Française*, beginning in July, 1898, and which reappear with some changes and additions as chapters of the present work. For the period from August 10, 1792, to 1804, the scope of the work is broader and includes with the original theme a description of every important phase of the political life of France. But during the periods of the Constituent and the Legislative Assemblies the first plan seems to narrow the treatment. With the publication of this book it has become, for the first time, possible to read in brief and exact descriptions how the great Revolutionary mechanism was organized from the Convention and the Committee of Public Safety down to the local committees in the Paris sections or in distant communes, and how this mechanism was modified as circumstances commanded until during the Thermidorian reaction, the period of the Directory and of the Consulate, it gradually crumbled, again yielding to circumstances, and gave way to a military despotism.